

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \* Docket No.  
\* 17-CR-281 (ERK)  
\*  
v. \* U.S. Courthouse  
\* Brooklyn, NY  
\*  
CARLOS RICHARD MARTINEZ, \*  
\* Defendant. \* February 10, 2020  
\* 3:44 PM  
\* \* \* \* \*

TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR JURY TRIAL  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE EDWARD R. KORMAN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Proceedings

1 THE CLERK: United States v. Carlos Martinez.

2 Your appearances, counsel.

3 MS. GEDDES: Elizabeth Geddes and Nadia Shihata for  
4 the government. Also seated at counsel table is Special Agent  
5 Elliot McGinnis, and Teri Carby, a paralegal in our office.

6 Good afternoon, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

8 MR. RICCO: Good afternoon, Judge Korman, Anthony  
9 Ricco for Carlos Martinez.

10 And Your Honor, I'm joined by Carlos Santiago,  
11 counsel, and Your Honor may recall he is a participant in the  
12 Mentoring Program.

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. RICCO: And also I'm joined by paralegal Minit  
15 Rallah (ph.) and, of course, Carlos Martinez.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. SANTIAGO: Afternoon.

18 MR. MARTINEZ: Good afternoon.

19 THE COURT: Do I need to deal with the so-called in  
20 limine motions before, before we start? Before opening, even  
21 before opening statements? I don't think so.

22 MS. GEDDES: I don't believe so.

23 MR. RICCO: No, Judge.

24 THE COURT: Good. We'll deal with them later then.  
25 I don't like to keep the jury waiting.

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1                   All right, bring in the jury.

2 (Pause)

3                   THE CLERK: All rise.

4 (Jury In)

5                   THE CLERK: Please be seated.

6                   THE COURT: Is there any reason why the jury should  
7 not be sworn?

8                   MS. GEDDES: No, Judge.

9                   MR. RICCO: No, Your Honor.

10                  THE COURT: All right. Swear the jury.

11 (Jury sworn)

12                  THE CLERK: Please be seated.

13                  THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen of the  
14 jury we're about to begin this trial about which you have heard  
15 something during the process of jury selection. Before the  
16 trial begins, however, there are certain things I wish to tell  
17 you which will help you understand what will be presented  
18 before you, and how you should conduct yourselves during the  
19 trial.

20                  To begin with you are here to administer justice in  
21 this case according to the law and the evidence with complete  
22 fairness and impartiality and without bias, prejudice or  
23 sympathy for or against the government or the defendant.

24                  This is important to the defendant who is charged  
25 with a crime and has the constitutional right to receive a fair

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1 trial. The case is also important to the government since the  
2 enforcement of the criminal laws is important.

3 The case is based on an indictment which has been  
4 read to you, quite recently, by the Magistrate Judge and to  
5 which the parties will refer in their opening statements, and  
6 which I will read to you again when I give you my instructions  
7 on the law. The indictment is simply the document by which a  
8 criminal action is commenced, it is merely an accusation of a  
9 charge. It is not evidence of the defendant's guilt.

10 Since the defendant has pleaded not guilty, the  
11 government has the burden of proving each of the essential  
12 elements of the crime charged in the indictment beyond a  
13 reasonable doubt. The purpose of the trial is to determine  
14 whether the government meets this burden.

15 The defendant does not have to prove his innocence.  
16 On the contrary, the defendant is presumed to be innocent of  
17 the accusations contained in the indictment.

18 The trial will proceed in the following order:  
19 First. the parties have the opportunity to make opening  
20 statements. The government will make such a statement, then  
21 the defendant, although he is not obliged to do so, may through  
22 his attorney make an opening statement or defer until the end  
23 of the government's case. What is said in these statements is  
24 not evidence, it is simply an introduction to the evidence  
25 which the parties intend to produce.

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1                   Second, the government will introduce evidence in  
2 support of the charges. Then the defendant may present  
3 evidence, but is not required to do so. The burden is always  
4 on the government to prove every element of the offense charged  
5 beyond a reasonable doubt. The law never imposes on a  
6 defendant in a criminal case the burden of calling any  
7 witnesses or introducing any evidence.

8                   Fourth, after all the evidence has been presented  
9 each party has the opportunity to present argument in support  
10 of his case. What is said in these arguments is not evidence,  
11 they simply present to you the contentions of the parties as to  
12 what the evidence has shown, and what inferences may be drawn  
13 from the evidence. The government will have the right to open  
14 and close the argument which we refer to as summations.

15                  After the summations, I will instruct you on the  
16 applicable law and then you will retire to consider your  
17 verdict. Your verdict must be unanimous as to every party and  
18 on every count. You have a tremendously important task as  
19 jurors, it is to determine the facts. Our constitution gives  
20 the defendant the right to have you, who are members of the  
21 community, find those facts. You, and not I, are the sole  
22 judge of the facts.

23                  I shall try to preside impartially and not to express  
24 any opinion concerning the facts; however, if at any time I  
25 should make any comment with respect to the facts, you should

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1 disregard it.

2 It is your judgment as to the facts, not mine, which  
3 controls. As the sole judge of the facts you must determine  
4 which of the witnesses you believe and what portion of their  
5 testimony you accept and what weight you attach to it.

6 When an objection to a question is sustained, you  
7 should disregard the question and draw no inferences from its  
8 wording about the answer that might have been given. Where an  
9 objection is overruled, evidence then received has no special  
10 weight just because it was unsuccessfully objected to.

11 You must not consider anything you may have read or  
12 heard about the case outside the courtroom whether before or  
13 during trial.

14 Now I know that many of you use cell phones and  
15 Blackberries, the internet, and other tools of technology. You  
16 must not talk to anyone at any time about this case or use  
17 those tools to communicate electronically with anyone about  
18 this case. This includes your family and friends. You may not  
19 communicate with anyone about this case on your cell phone,  
20 through e-mail, BlackBerry, iPhone, text messaging or on  
21 Twitter. Through any website, blog, including Facebook,  
22 Google, MySpace, LinkedIn or YouTube. You may not use any  
23 similar technology of social media, even if I have not  
24 specifically mentioned it. I expect you to inform me as soon  
25 as you become aware of another juror's violation of these

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1 instructions.

2 And I would add to that you should not use any of  
3 these to do research about the case or research about any  
4 issue. Your verdict in this case is going to ultimately have  
5 to be based on what you hear in this courtroom.

6 Now no statement, remark or comment which I may make  
7 during the course of the trial is intended to indicate any  
8 opinion as to how you should decide the case or influence you  
9 in any way in your determination of the facts. At times I may  
10 ask questions of witnesses, if so it's for the purpose of  
11 bringing out matters which I feel should be brought out and not  
12 in any way indicating an opinion about the facts or to indicate  
13 the weight that you should give to the testimony of the  
14 witness.

15 Now there are several rules which should govern your  
16 conduct during any recesses. You will not be required to  
17 remain together while the Court is in recess, but you are  
18 required to follow these instructions about recesses.

19 First, do not discuss the case among yourselves or  
20 with anyone else. You should keep an open mind reaching your  
21 conclusion only during your final deliberations, after all the  
22 evidence is in, you've heard the attorneys' summations, and my  
23 instructions on the law, and then, only and after exchange of  
24 views with other members of the jury.

25 Now the instruction I've just given you is

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8

1 counterintuitive. Serving on a jury is an interesting and  
2 unique experience for many of you, not all, and it is something  
3 that you would naturally want to discuss with family or friends  
4 when you see them when you get at home. And we ask you not to  
5 do that because we want you to decide the case on what you hear  
6 here in Court, and when you start conversing with someone about  
7 the case, before you know it they're giving you their opinion  
8 when they haven't heard any of what went on in this courtroom.  
9 So in order to guard against that we ask you not to discuss  
10 the case with anyone else.

11           And the instruction that you not discuss the case  
12 among yourselves is also counterintuitive because at the moment  
13 the case is all you have in common and it's quite natural that  
14 you would want to talk about it, and we ask you not to do it  
15 because when you start talking about the case prematurely  
16 before you've heard all the evidence and the attorneys'  
17 arguments and my instructions on the law, you might jump to  
18 conclusions which may not be warranted or be premature. So  
19 that's why we ask you not to discuss the case among yourselves,  
20 and by that I mean as a commonsense rule don't discuss whether  
21 you believe or disbelieve a particular witness or you believe  
22 or don't believe that the defendant is guilty or not guilty  
23 until you've heard all the evidence, the attorneys' arguments  
24 and my instructions on the law.

25           You should also not permit any other person to

Opening - Shihata

9

1 discuss the case in your presence and if anyone does so that  
2 you tell them not to, report that fact to me. You should not,  
3 however, discuss with your fellow jurors either that fact or  
4 any fact that you feel necessary to bring to my attention.

5 Finally, though it is a normal human reaction to talk  
6 with people with whom one is thrown into contact. Please do  
7 not do so whether in the courtroom, in the hallways, in the  
8 elevator outside or anywhere else with any of the parties or  
9 their attorneys, or any witnesses. By this I mean, not only do  
10 not talk about the case, but do not talk at all even to pass  
11 the time of day.

12 Now those of you who have been selected as alternate  
13 jurors should listen just as carefully and as conscientiously  
14 as the other jurors. You may very well be called upon prior to  
15 the conclusion of the case to take the place of one of the  
16 jurors and then you will have to render a verdict so please pay  
17 strict attention at all times.

18 All right. Who is going to give the opening  
19 statement?

20 MS. SHIHATA: I will.

21 GOVERNMENT'S OPENING STATEMENT:

22 MS. SHIHATA: This case is about power and abuse.  
23 That man, the defendant, Carlos Martinez abused his position  
24 and power as a law enforcement officer, a lieutenant, with the  
25 Federal Bureau of Prisons, by repeatedly raping a female inmate

Opening - Shihata

10

1 entrusted in his care and custody.

2 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, my name is

3 Nadia Shihata and I'm an Assistant United States Attorney.

4 Here with me this afternoon is Assistant United States Attorney

5 Elizabeth Geddes, along with Elliot McGinnis, Special Agent

6 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Teri Carby, a

7 paralegal in our office. Together we represent the United

8 States, and we will present the evidence against the defendant.

9 On a Sunday in December of 2015, a woman, an inmate,  
10 got summoned by the defendant to clean the lieutenants' office  
11 on the second floor of the Metropolitan Detention Center here  
12 in Brooklyn, known as the "MDC."

13 During this trial you'll learn her real name, but  
14 we'll refer to her by a pseudonym "Maria" to protect her  
15 privacy. Maria was in her late 20s, didn't speak much English,  
16 and her family was far away in the Dominican Republic. She  
17 hadn't had a single visitor at the MDC. She was isolated.  
18 Vulnerable. Facing immigration custody and possible  
19 deportation after serving her sentence.

20 By December 2015 Maria had worked as a cleaner at the  
21 MDC for over six months. But had more recently started  
22 cleaning for the defendant. At first the defendant was nice to  
23 her. He would ask Maria how her week went as she went about  
24 her cleaning. He began calling her by her first name and  
25 sharing personal information about himself.

Opening - Shihata

11

1           And then the defendant, a boss at the prison, took  
2 things a step further making inappropriate sexual comments to  
3 Maria, asking her if she masturbated. Suggesting that she  
4 should finger him and touch herself. But even with the  
5 defendant's comments in the back of her mind Maria never  
6 expected what happened next.

7           On that Sunday in December her life changed forever.  
8 An officer took Maria from her unit, the second floor, to  
9 clean, leaving her alone with the defendant in the lieutenants'  
10 office. Once there Maria prepared to clean like always. While  
11 the defendant sat at his desk in the office she crouched down  
12 to gather and prepare some cleaning liquids that were stored in  
13 an area behind that same desk. Maria had her back towards the  
14 defendant.

15           The defendant then turned his chair towards her, when  
16 Maria looked his way she saw the defendant's erect penis  
17 exposed through the zipper of his pants. The defendant then  
18 grabbed Maria's head and forced his penis into her mouth. She  
19 struggled to push herself away but wasn't able to. She felt  
20 like she was being choked. The defendant then lifted Maria up  
21 and pushed her face forward onto the desk. He pulled her pants  
22 and underwear down then penetrated Maria's vagina with his  
23 penis from behind.

24           Maria was crying. He kept going. When he finally  
25 finished, the defendant cleaned himself off and told Maria she

Opening - Shihata

12

1 was bleeding. The defendant ejaculated inside of Maria that  
2 day. So on top of everything else she had just been through,  
3 she was terrified she'd get pregnant. She begged the defendant  
4 to get her the morning after pill, an emergency contraceptive  
5 that prevents women from getting pregnant when taken shortly  
6 after unprotected sex. But the defendant told her to calm  
7 down, not to worry, she wouldn't get pregnant because he had an  
8 operation, a vasectomy which meant he couldn't impregnate her.  
9 Maria wasn't convinced and she was desperate for that pill,  
10 pleading with the defendant to bring it to her even after he  
11 told her she didn't need it.

12 Eventually to calm Maria down, the defendant relented  
13 and told her he would try to bring the pill to her later that  
14 night when he was back on shift around midnight. The officer  
15 took Maria back to her unit, but before she left the defendant  
16 made sure to let Maria know there would be consequences if she  
17 told anyone what happened. She would end up with more jail  
18 time if anyone found out and she would be sent to the SHU,  
19 special housing, solitary confinement. In the place where  
20 inmates were routinely disciplined on the word of an officer.

21 That's what the defendant, the lieutenant with the  
22 power and authority to discipline inmates like Maria, that's  
23 what he told her. And not just that Sunday. See the defendant  
24 didn't just rape and sexually abuse Maria that one time, in the  
25 weeks that followed he did it again, and again, and again.

Opening - Shihata

13

1 Over and over and over. In the same location, under the same  
2 guise of calling Maria down to clean.

3 During this trial, you'll learn that at the times the  
4 defendant chose to rape Maria the lieutenants' office and  
5 surrounding areas were basically empty. And you'll also learn  
6 that there were no cameras inside the lieutenants' office.

7 Something the defendant, the supervisor in the prison, knew.  
8 But there were cameras in other parts of the prison. And  
9 you'll learn that the defendant had access to those cameras  
10 from the computer on the desk in the lieutenants' office so he  
11 could see and know if anyone was coming while he sexually  
12 assaulted Maria. It was his foolproof system. A system that  
13 also let Maria know that the defendant could watch her even  
14 when she wasn't with him.

15 For his conduct the defendant is charged in a 15-  
16 count indictment with crimes related to certain specific  
17 incidences of his sexual abuse of Maria. Those crimes fall  
18 into three categories. First, depriving Maria of her civil  
19 rights, specifically her right as a prisoner to be free from  
20 cruel and unusual punishment in the form of the defendant's  
21 aggravated sexual abuse. Second, the crime of aggravated  
22 sexual abuse for using force to cause Maria to engage in  
23 various sexual acts with him. And third, the crime of sexual  
24 abuse using threats and fear to cause Maria to engage in those  
25 acts.

Opening - Shihata

14

1           So how will we prove that the defendant committed  
2 those crimes? First, we'll hear from Maria, the survivor,  
3 herself. She'll take that witness stand and tell you what the  
4 defendant did to her. She'll come into this courtroom and  
5 relive the worst period of her life there. Telling you in  
6 explicit detail how the defendant used force, threats, fear and  
7 his position of power as a lieutenant to sexually abuse her  
8 repeatedly.

9           She'll tell you about the humiliation and shame she  
10 felt afterwards. The fear she endured and the steps she took  
11 to try to make it stop. Including the call she made asking a  
12 friend to look the defendant up on Facebook. Hoping the  
13 defendant would monitor the call, get worried his name was  
14 mentioned and finally stop the abuse.

15           And the defendant did find out about that call and  
16 did stop raping Maria for a period of time. But then he raped  
17 her again, one last time on April 2016, before she was  
18 transferred into Immigration custody.

19           You'll also hear from other women who were housed at  
20 MDC. Women who saw Maria after she returned to her unit that  
21 Sunday in December, after the first time the defendant raped  
22 her. They'll describe how she looked and acted for hours  
23 afterwards and how she confided to them some of what happened  
24 at that time. How she was bleeding, crying, scared, and not  
25 her normal self the rest of that day and the days following.

Opening - Ricco

15

1            You'll see medical records showing the defendant had  
2 a vasectomy, just like he told Maria. And you'll hear from a  
3 doctor, an expert, who will explain to you what that means.  
4 You'll hear from MDC officers and other witnesses who will  
5 corroborate, will back up, aspects of Maria's testimony. And  
6 you will see prison records, phone records and Facebook records  
7 that do the same.

8            And finally, ladies and gentlemen, you'll see and  
9 hear testimony about bank records and records from Rite-Aid  
10 Pharmacy proving that on that Sunday, December of 2015, after  
11 the first rape when Maria begged him for that morning after  
12 pill, just a few hours later the defendant used a debit card to  
13 buy that pill. At a Rite-Aid not far from his house. He even  
14 used his Rite-Aid rewards card to get a \$5 discount on it.

15           That's just a brief summary of some of the evidence  
16 you'll see and hear during this trial. At the end of this  
17 case, after you've seen and heard all the evidence, we'll have  
18 a chance to speak with you again and at that time we'll ask you  
19 to find the defendant guilty on all counts.

20           Thank you.

21           THE COURT: Mr. Ricco.

22           MR. RICCO: Thank you, Judge.

23 DEFENSE'S OPENING STATEMENT:

24           MR. RICCO: What are my concerns? My concerns is  
25 after hearing such a detailed, gripping, emotionally moving

Opening - Ricco

16

1 story, how do you look people in the face and ask them to  
2 believe you? How do you ask people to believe in the  
3 presumption of innocence? How do you ask people to give, you  
4 heard Lieutenant Martinez a trial?

5 There are some charges that just from the nature of  
6 the charges themselves make your job excruciatingly difficult.  
7 I'm concerned about that. It's important to me that throughout  
8 these proceedings that as the lawyer, myself and Carlos  
9 Santiago, who is sitting over my shoulder, that we are able to  
10 maintain your respect, and your honor, and commitment to the  
11 principles that we've talked about in jury selection.

12 We live in very difficult times where we hear these  
13 type of allegations, and we hear \$2 dollar lawyers making  
14 statements about it, and sometimes people are infuriated by  
15 them. So what I'm saying to you all is I hope and pray that we  
16 haven't lost you on the opening statements because Judge Korman  
17 told you that opening statements are not evidence, just a  
18 theory of the case and if we lost you on the theory, and as the  
19 witnesses take the stand, you're listening for the theory as  
20 opposed to the defense.

21 Now I can tell how some of you are looking, and it  
22 doesn't feel good. We have a system that is very difficult for  
23 us, for all us to participate in because oftentimes the charges  
24 themselves set off in us an emotional reaction that makes it  
25 difficult for us to listen. The most important thing is not to

Opening - Ricco

17

1 get before you and tell you an equally compelling story to sort  
2 of capture your heart about what you're going to hear.

3 I could do that. It could be done. This is not  
4 about storytelling. This is about proving the case. And so  
5 you have to reserve your judgment about it, as hard as it is.  
6 The failure to do so means that our system doesn't work. And  
7 the responsibility for this is with you. So, I'm not going to  
8 preview the facts to you. I could.

9 I could tell you all those details you heard is all  
10 about a \$20 million lawsuit. I could tell you other facts, but  
11 then that would be unfair because the person who is the accuser  
12 should get their day in court. I'll promise you this, I  
13 promise you that the questions I will ask, will be the kinds of  
14 questions that you would want to ask in the search for the  
15 truth about what happened.

16 You're going to hear from many witnesses. You're  
17 going to hear from witnesses who do not "corroborate" what Ms.  
18 Shihata just said. You're going to hear from staff people who  
19 do not corroborate what Ms. Shihata just said. Your read of  
20 those Facebook posts and those Facebook texts may not  
21 corroborate what Ms. Shihata said. And the purchase of the  
22 pill may not corroborate the story of that the purchase of the  
23 pill is connected to.

24 And so what I'm going to ask you do is to think, it's  
25 a hard thing to do, because we live in a society where people

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

18

1 look at people and we look over there and they look at his face  
2 and they -- if they can. Some people can't look at him. And  
3 they look over there and say he looks guilty to me, and then  
4 everything that we hear is based upon our perception that he  
5 looks guilty. So I'm going to ask you not to do that, if you  
6 can. And that you withhold your judgment way down the line  
7 until Judge Korman instructs you on the law, until you go into  
8 the jury room, and you start deliberating about the testimony  
9 that you've heard. And then to piece it together, step-by-  
10 step, piece-by-piece.

11                   And that's really all I have to say at this point.  
12 No long drawn out circumstance, just a request that each of you  
13 live up to the duty that you swore that you would live up to.  
14 And some, you know, we talked to some of the jurors on the side  
15 and if you can't, then tell the judge and let the alternates  
16 come in. Don't stay here if your mind is already made up  
17 because you would be engaged in something worse than the story  
18 you just heard.

19                   So as we sit here right now, the person that is hard  
20 for us to look at, hey, listen under the law he's presumed to  
21 be innocent. And he's entitled to that presumption just as  
22 much as either one of us would be, or any of our loved ones  
23 would be. And he carries that every day. And I'm going to ask  
24 that when you come in here every day on your way to the  
25 courthouse that you recommit yourself to the presumption of

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

19

1 innocence and that you try hard to do it, pray on it, get it  
2 done. If you can come in here everyday carrying that  
3 responsibility, at the end of the day you're verdict will be  
4 not only justified but honored by everybody.

5 So that's all I have to say at this point. I'm going  
6 to be asking questions and I'm going to ask you to please try  
7 to listen to the questions and answers and follow us through  
8 this trial. Okay? All right? All right.

9 Judge Korman, thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 All right. Call your first witness.

12 MS. SHIHATA: The government calls Maria.

13 (INTERPRETERS SWORN)

14 THE CLERK: Please state your name for the record.

15 THE INTERPRETER: Elizabeth Caruso.

16 THE INTERPRETER: Vivian Goa.

17 THE COURT: Would you raise your right hand?

18 "M A R I A",

19 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified  
20 as follows:

21 THE COURT: Please be seated.

22 MS. SHIHATA: May I inquire, your Honor?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY MS. SHIHATA:

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

20

1 Q Good afternoon.

2 MS. SHIHATA: I'm showing the witness only what's  
3 been marked for identification as Government Exhibit 2.

4 THE CLERK: ELMO or laptop?

5 MS. SHIHATA: ELMO, please.

6 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to say  
7 that in Mr. Ricco's opening he referred to texts and Facebook.  
8 What he's referring to is evidence that's going to be admitted  
9 here. You should not go looking, again, for anything on the  
10 internet.

11 MS. SHIHATA: I'm showing the witness only what's  
12 been marked for identification as Government Exhibit 2.

13 Q Do you recognize this photograph?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Who is this a photograph of?

16 A Me.

17 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibit 2.

18 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: It's admitted.

20 (Government's Exhibit 2 received into evidence.)

21 MS. SHIHATA: May I publish it to the jury, please?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MS. SHIHATA: May I approach, your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Yes. You don't ever have to ask me. You  
25 can always do it.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

21

1 THE CLERK: But you do need to remember to speak only  
2 in front of the microphones.

3 Q I'm showing you what's been marked for identification as  
4 Government Exhibit 2-A. Is this the same photograph I just  
5 showed you in Government Exhibit 2 with your true name written  
6 underneath?

7 A Yes.

8 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibit 2-A.

9 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: It's admitted.

11 (Government's Exhibit 2-A received into evidence.)

12 MS. SHIHATA: And I would ask to publish it to the  
13 jury.

14 THE COURT: Doesn't it go up on the screen? I don't  
15 like --

16 MS. SHIHATA: It has her true name, your Honor.

17 Q Now, for the purposes of your testimony here today, we are  
18 going to refer to you as "Maria." Okay?

19 A Okay.

20 Q How old are you?

21 A Thirty-three.

22 Q Where were you born?

23 A In the Dominican Republic.

24 Q How far did you go in school?

25 A Two years of college.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

22

1 Q In what country?

2 A In the Dominican Republic.

3 Q At some point in your life, did you spend time in a  
4 federal prison?

5 A Yes.

6 Q What prison or prisons?

7 A At the MCC Manhattan and MDC Brooklyn.

8 Q And does "MCC" stand for Metropolitan Correctional Center?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And you testified that's in Manhattan?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And you mentioned "MDC." Does that stand for Metropolitan  
13 Detention Center?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And where is that located?

16 A In Brooklyn.

17 Q Did something happen to you while you were housed at the  
18 MDC?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What happened?

21 A I was raped.

22 Q By who?

23 A Martinez.

24 MS. SHIHATA: I'm showing the witness only what's  
25 been marked for identification as Government Exhibit 1.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

23

1 Q Do you recognize this -- the person in this photo?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Who is this a photo of?

4 A Martinez. Lieutenant Martinez.

5 Q Is that the Martinez you just referred to?

6 A Yes.

7 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibit 1.

8 MR. RICCO: It's without objection.

9 THE COURT: It's admitted.

10 (Government's Exhibit 1 received into evidence.)

11 MS. SHIHATA: If we could publish it, please, on the  
12 screens.

13 Q Now you said -- you testified you went to college in the  
14 Dominican Republic, correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What did you study there?

17 A Civil engineering.

18 Q And when did you move to the United States?

19 A In 2008, April of 2008.

20 Q And how old -- around how old were you at that time?

21 A Twenty-one, twenty-two.

22 Q What area did you move to?

23 A Queens.

24 Q Why did you come to the United States?

25 A My boyfriend.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

24

1 Q Did you come to the United States legally?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And after you got to the U.S., did you marry your  
4 boyfriend?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you become a legal, permanent resident of the United  
7 States?

8 A Yes.

9 Q After coming to the United States, did you work?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What types of jobs?

12 A Housekeeping at the Sheraton, Hilton, Western Union, a  
13 supermarket.

14 Q And before going to prison, did you also continue your  
15 education in the United States?

16 A Yes.

17 Q What did you study?

18 A I was studying English to then go on to nursing.

19 Q And did you actually go on to the nursing part?

20 A No.

21 Q Do you have any children?

22 A No.

23 Q Sometime after you moved to New York, were you contacted  
24 by a man you knew from the Dominican Republic?

25 A Yes.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

25

1 Q What if anything did he ask you to do?

2 A To go pick up drugs.

3 Q From where?

4 A Manhattan. Vermilyea.

5 Q Did you ultimately end up picking up drugs for this man at  
6 some point?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Approximately how many times?

9 A Five. Three. I don't remember. I don't remember exactly  
10 how many.

11 Q Fair to say multiple times?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Why did you do that?

14 A Because he told me I had to pay some money.

15 Q How much --

16 A And -- and I didn't have any money to pay him with.

17 Q How much money did he say you had to pay him?

18 A A little over 300.

19 Q Three hundred what?

20 A Thousand dollars.

21 Q Why did he say you owed him \$300,000?

22 A Because the first time he asked me to go and pick up  
23 drugs, I didn't go, and the drugs got lost.

24 Q And what did you understand that to mean?

25 A I don't know who picked up those drugs, but he said he

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1 wasn't going to be the only one paying for the drugs. I had to  
2 pay him for them.

3 Q Were you scared of this man?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Are you still scared of him today?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What job did you have at the time when you were told you  
8 owed \$300,000?

9 A Housekeeping.

10 Q Could you afford to pay \$300,000?

11 A No.

12 Q What if anything did the man say about how you could pay  
13 this debt?

14 A So you go and pick up drugs, just do that continuously.  
15 And every time I did that, he would take \$2,000 off.

16 Q \$2,000 off the debt?

17 A Yes.

18 Q I want to direct your attention to September 18th, 2013.

19 Were you arrested that day?

20 A Yes.

21 Q On what type of charge?

22 A Conspiracy and possession of drugs.

23 Q And were you planning to pick up drugs that day?

24 A Yes. I was -- I went out to pick it up.

25 Q And what if any arrangement had you made with respect to

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1 payment for picking up drugs that day?

2 A That he give the money to my brother, not to give me the  
3 money, because -- not to take it off, because my dad was sick  
4 and I wanted to put Dad in a clinic.

5 Q Okay. So in this -- on this occasion, did you ask to  
6 actually be paid \$2,000 rather than having it taken off the  
7 debt?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Had you ever been arrested before that day?

10 A No.

11 Q Were you questioned by the agents who arrested you the  
12 same day you were arrested?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Were you truthful with those agents?

15 A No.

16 Q Following your arrest, were you incarcerated?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Where?

19 A At the MCC Manhattan.

20 Q Are you familiar with the term "safety valve proffer"?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What is your understanding of what a safety valve proffer  
23 is?

24 A It's a meeting. Your lawyer's there, the agents who  
25 arrested you are there, and you have to tell the whole truth

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

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1 about what you did.

2 Q And do prosecutors also attend that meeting?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is there any condition -- I'm sorry. You indicated you  
5 have to tell the truth about what you did, at the safety valve  
6 proffer. Is that correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And for what purpose do you have to tell the truth at that  
9 proffer?

10 A So they can -- well, so they can take off two points for  
11 time, from your sentence.

12 Q And is there any condition to getting -- what is your  
13 understanding of what the condition to getting less time for  
14 participating in a safety valve proffer is?

15 A Tell the truth.

16 Q In connection with your arrest, did you plead guilty?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What did you plead guilty to?

19 A Possession and a drug conspiracy.

20 Q Before your guilty plea, did you participate in a safety  
21 valve proffer?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Were you completely truthful in your safety valve proffer?

24 A No.

25 Q What if anything did you leave out?

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1 A Who the drugs belonged to, how many times I had gone out  
2 to pick up drugs. I don't remember, but --

3 Q Why did you leave out who the drugs belonged to?

4 A Because I was in jail at that point. I couldn't say who  
5 the drugs belonged to. In other words, I wasn't going to put  
6 my family at risk.

7 Q Had anything happened to your family prior to that?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What had happened?

10 A The house caught fire.

11 Q Whose house?

12 A My parents' -- my house.

13 Q The house in the Dominican Republic?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And what if anything happened to your brother -- or one of  
16 your brothers in that fire?

17 A He died.

18 Q What if anything did you learn about that fire after  
19 speaking with the man who asked you to pick up drugs?

20 A That he had been -- he had been the one who had sent it to  
21 be done.

22 Q Now, were you sentenced on January 29, 2015?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What sentence did you receive?

25 A Three years in prison and two years of probation.

"Maria" - Direct - Shihata

30

1 Q What if any benefit did you receive from your safety valve  
2 proffer?

3 A They reduced time.

4 Q Were you facing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime  
5 you had pled guilty to?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What mandatory minimum sentence were you facing?

8 A Ten years.

9 Q Was that based on the amount of drugs you were going to  
10 pick up?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And were you sentenced below that, due to your safety  
13 valve proffer?

14 A Yes.

15 Q When you were sentenced, what prison were you housed in,  
16 at the time of your sentencing?

17 A MDC Brooklyn.

18 Q I'm sorry. Were you -- at the time you were sentenced,  
19 were you housed in Manhattan or Brooklyn?

20 A In Manhattan.

21 Q And were you transferred to another prison at some point  
22 after that?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Which prison?

25 A MDC Brooklyn.

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1 Q Around when did you first arrive at the MDC?

2 A Around March or April.

3 Q Of what year?

4 A 2015.

5 Q And when were you released from the MDC?

6 A 29th of April, 2016.

7 Q And had you been in prison the entire time since your  
8 arrest?

9 A Yes.

10 Q When you were in prison, what was the most important thing  
11 to you?

12 A My time.

13 Q What do you mean by that?

14 A My time to get out, like my good time.

15 Q What is "good time"?

16 A It's the time they reduce from your sentence because if  
17 you don't get tickets and you behave properly.

18 Q What is a "ticket"?

19 A It's -- ticket is like when you do something bad, the  
20 officer gives you a ticket.

21 Q And does that result in some form of discipline?

22 A Yes.

23 Q When you were at the MDC, how many units were there for  
24 female inmates?

25 A Two.

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1 Q What if anything were those units called?

2 A "South" and "North."

3 Q What floor were they on?

4 A Sixth.

5 Q And generally speaking, what type of inmates were housed  
6 in Unit 6 North?

7 A The inmates who were awaiting to be sentenced.

8 Q And what type of inmates were housed in Unit 6 South?

9 A Those of us who were sentenced.

10 Q What type of inmate were you when you were housed at the  
11 MDC?

12 A Sentenced.

13 Q And for most of your time at the MCC, what type of inmate  
14 were you? In the MCC. I'm sorry.

15 A Awaiting my sentence.

16 Q And while you were awaiting your sentence when you were  
17 housed at the MCC, was your court case still going on for most  
18 of the time you were there?

19 A Yes.

20 Q How often would you see your lawyer when you were at the  
21 MCC?

22 A Frequently. When there was anything, he would just come  
23 and visit.

24 Q Would you also see him when you appeared in court?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q How if at all did that change after you were sentenced?

2 A After I was sentenced, the lawyer didn't come back.

3 Q Was your court case over at that point?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, you testified you were -- or I'm sorry. Which unit  
6 were you housed in at the MDC?

7 A South.

8 Q On the sixth floor?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And can you describe for the jury what the general layout  
11 of Unit 6 South was?

12 A The door. When you entered, the kitchen was on the left.  
13 The officers' office, and the counselor's office. Then the  
14 bathrooms and a little room. And on the right side were the  
15 phones, computer, and the beds. And in the middle were the  
16 chairs and the tables where we ate. And the TV.

17 Q I'm going to show you a series of photographs marked for  
18 identification as Government Exhibits 104-A through 104-E. Can  
19 you take a moment to review these photographs and tell me if  
20 you recognize them.

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what area of the MDC are these photographs of? What  
23 area of the MDC are these photographs of?

24 A The officers' and the counselor's office, the bathroom,  
25 the table where you eat, the phones and the computer, the beds

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1 -- and the beds.

2 Q And are these all photographs of portions of Unit 6 South?

3 A Yes.

4 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibits  
5 104-A through 104-E.

6 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: They're admitted.

8 (Government's Exhibits 104-A through 104-E received into  
9 evidence.)

10 Q Starting with Government Exhibit 104 --

11 THE COURT: Could you close the light?

12 Q -- C, what area is this?

13 A The tables where we ate, the phones and the computer, the  
14 officers' office and the counselor's office, and the kitchen.

15 Q Okay. And can you point out in this photograph where the  
16 entrance -- where if anywhere the entrance to the unit is?

17 A Here.

18 Q And can you actually -- you can actually make a mark on  
19 your screen.

20 THE INTERPRETER: Nothing's happening.

21 MS. SHIHATA: Okay. I don't think it's working.

22 Q I'm pointing to a door in the middle of the photograph  
23 with what looks like an "exit" sign on top. Is that the  
24 entrance to the unit?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Okay. And this office next to this -- what appears to be  
2 an ice machine, what is that?

3 A The officers' office.

4 Q Now, you testified when you were at the MDC there were TVs  
5 in your unit. Is that right?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Where were those?

8 A In those -- on those columns there in the middle.

9 Q Okay. So affixed somewhere on these -- the top of these  
10 columns?

11 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. Can you repeat the  
12 question?

13 Q Affixed somewhere on the top of these columns?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Showing you Government Exhibit 104-E. Is this a close-up  
16 of the entrance to the officers' office in the unit?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And I'm showing you Government Exhibits 104-B and 104-A.  
19 What are these photos of?

20 A The beds.

21 Q And when you were there, did the beds have mattresses on  
22 them?

23 A Yes.

24 Q I'm showing you Government Exhibit -- what's in evidence  
25 as Government Exhibit 104-D. What is this a photo of?

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1 A The bathrooms. The sinks. And a little room in the rear.

2 Q And this little room in the rear, what's in there?

3 A It's like a slop sink where you can wash by hand, or wash  
4 dishes.

5 Q And across from the sinks, what is across from the sinks?

6 A The bathrooms.

7 Q And where if anywhere are the showers?

8 A The first ones are the showers. The second ones are the  
9 bathrooms.

10 Q And so where I'm pointing here, what are those?

11 A The bathrooms.

12 Q And behind them?

13 A The toilets.

14 Q Okay. Which of those two is the showers? This one or  
15 this one?

16 A The first one.

17 Q Okay.

18 A That one.

19 Q Now, as an inmate at the MDC, was Unit 6 South where you  
20 spent most of your time?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What if any privacy did you have there?

23 A None at all.

24 Q Who were the people that were in charge of you at the MDC?

25 A The lieutenants, the officers, and the counselor.

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1 Q And were there rules that you had to follow as an inmate  
2 at the MDC?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What kind of rules?

5 A Keep your uniform on until 4:00 in the afternoon. Work.  
6 Be in your bed after the 10 o'clock count. What else?

7 Q Okay. Were those some of the rules?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And if an inmate didn't follow the rules at the MDC, what  
10 was your understanding of what would happen?

11 A The officer would give you a ticket.

12 Q And what if anything would that lead to?

13 A Go to the SHU or some of your privileges could be taken  
14 away from you, phone, computer, visits.

15 Q Now, you mentioned phone privileges. What type of phone  
16 privileges did you have as an inmate at the MDC?

17 A You got 300 minutes a month and you could use them during  
18 the day until 10 o'clock, 9 o'clock. I don't know. I don't  
19 remember what time.

20 Q And those 300 minutes, were they free?

21 A No.

22 Q Did you have to pay for them?

23 A You had to pay when you called, yes.

24 Q And how did you work when you wanted to make a phone call?

25 A You'd pick up the phone, dial the number, and then you had

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1 to punch in your ID number, put money in if you didn't have  
2 any, and that was it. You'd make your call. After the --  
3 after the machine would stop talking and saying your  
4 information.

5 Q Now, you mentioned the term "SHU." What is the "SHU"?

6 A It's like a small punishment room where you get locked in,  
7 and supposedly they take you out -- I never went there -- two  
8 times a week to take a shower, and they take away all of your  
9 privileges.

10 Q Now, are you familiar -- sorry. Going back to the  
11 telephone calls, you mentioned something about a machine. When  
12 you made a call at the MDC, what if anything were you informed  
13 of at the beginning of each call?

14 A Put in your name -- say your name. That the call was  
15 being recorded from a prison. I don't remember any more.

16 Q Are you familiar with the terms "recall" and "count"?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What is "recall" at the MDC?

19 A When -- well, there was a blue line. And you had to put  
20 yourself before the line when they said "recall," and that was  
21 for the count.

22 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
23 104-A. Is the line you're referring to in this exhibit?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Which one is it?

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1 A The first one.

2 Q That I'm pointing to here?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What is the "count"?

5 A It's when the officers come and count you to see if all  
6 the inmates are there.

7 Q And when you were at the MDC, how many times would the  
8 "count" happen?

9 A At 4:00 and at 10:00.

10 Q Okay. And was there any difference in the number of times  
11 the count occurred on Monday through Friday versus the  
12 weekends?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What difference?

15 A Saturdays and Sundays -- well, on the weekend -- the count  
16 would happen three times, 10:00, 4:00, and again at 10:00 at  
17 night.

18 Q And how about on Monday through Friday?

19 A Twice.

20 Q What were you permitted to wear as an inmate at the MDC?

21 A Your uniform, gray pants with a shirt. And weekends,  
22 sweatpants.

23 Q Okay. So the pants and shirt you described was your  
24 uniform?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q And you testified you could wear sweats on weekends?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Were there times you could also wear sweats Monday through  
4 Friday?

5 A After 4:00. After the count.

6 Q Where did inmates change their clothes in Unit 6 South?

7 A Right in front of your bed, right in front of the  
8 bathrooms, some people inside the bathroom.

9 Q Where did you change your clothes?

10 A Inside the bathroom.

11 Q Why?

12 A Because I didn't want them to see my body. Some women let  
13 anybody see their body.

14 Q As a sentenced prisoner at the MDC, were you required to  
15 work?

16 A Yes.

17 Q What job or jobs did you first have when you got there?

18 A In the unit kitchen; and in the laundry, but only a few  
19 days, until they gave me my steady job which was cleaning --  
20 cleaning.

21 Q And the laundry you mentioned for a few days, was that in  
22 your unit?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And once you got your cleaning job, what if any areas were  
25 you required to clean as part of your job?

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1 A The second floor.

2 Q And to the best of your memory, around when did you start  
3 cleaning the second floor area?

4 A Practically from when I got there. Maybe a month later.

5 Q Okay. And at some point did you start cleaning the second  
6 floor regularly?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And about how often would you clean the second floor?

9 A Anytime they would call for me to go clean. The doctors,  
10 the legal people, or the lieutenants.

11 Q And what specific types of cleaning did you do?

12 A The garbage, mopping, dusting, cleaning.

13 Q And when you first started to clean the second floor on a  
14 regular basis, who if anyone did you clean with?

15 A With Carmen Lopez and Odie de la Cruz.

16 Q Now, did Carmen Lopez leave the MDC at some point while  
17 you were there?

18 A Yes. She left.

19 Q Around when did Carmen Lopez leave the MDC?

20 A November 1st, 2015.

21 MS. SHIHATA: Showing the witness only what's been  
22 marked for identification as Government Exhibit 8.

23 Q Do you recognize the person in this photo?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Who is that?

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1 A Odie de la Cruz.

2 Q And is that the Odie de la Cruz that you just mentioned  
3 you sometimes cleaned with?

4 A Yes.

5 MS. SHIHATA: I'd move to Government Exhibit 8.

6 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: It's admitted.

8 (Government's Exhibit 8 received into evidence.)

9 MS. SHIHATA: If we could publish it on the screens.

10 Q Now, when you got to the MDC, was Odis de la Cruz there  
11 when you got there?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And when you left the MDC, was she still there?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And just to be clear, was she another inmate at the MDC?

16 A Yes.

17 Q After Carmen Lopez left the MDC, were there times when you  
18 were called to clean the second floor alone?

19 A Yes.

20 Q As a general matter, how did you learn when you were  
21 needed to clean -- to clean the second floor on a particular  
22 day?

23 A The officer would call you over the loudspeaker or some  
24 would come over to you and they'd say get ready, you have to go  
25 clean.

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1 Q And what if anything did you have to do to get ready to go  
2 clean?

3 A Put your uniform on, if you weren't already wearing it.  
4 Get the mops, the paper towels, and the pail that you put water  
5 in.

6 Q And how -- how did you get to the second floor?

7 A The officer had to take me down there.

8 Q Was that by elevator?

9 A Yes.

10 Q I'm showing you what's been marked for identification as  
11 Government Exhibits 101-A through 101-E. Can you take a moment  
12 to look at these photographs and tell me if you recognize them.

13 A Yes.

14 Q And are these all photographs from the second floor of the  
15 MDC?

16 A Yes.

17 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibits  
18 101-A through 101-E.

19 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

20 MS. SHIHATA: They're admitted.

21 (Government's Exhibits 101-A through 101-E received into  
22 evidence.)

23 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence was Government Exhibit  
24 101-A. What does this photo show?

25 A The two elevators and the door where the officer who took

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1 you had to say your name. And the control would open.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Correction. The officer would have  
3 to say his name.

4 Q And is this the hallway you had to go to, to get to a  
5 particular area?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what area was beyond the door that controlled?

8 A The same hallway. On the left side are the lieutenants'  
9 office and the chaplain. On the right-hand side is the  
10 dentist, another office that belongs to a lady.

11 Q Okay. And I'm showing you Government Exhibit 101-B. What  
12 is this a photo of?

13 A The same door.

14 Q And what is the black square next to the door?

15 A It's where the officer had to say his name.

16 Q In order for what to happen?

17 A So that the door would be opened.

18 Q Showing you what's in evidence as 101-C. Is that the same  
19 door -- photograph of the same door open?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
22 101-D. What does this photo show?

23 A On the left side are the doors for the lieutenants. The  
24 second door is where you went to get water. The third door is  
25 where you waited for the doctors. On the right side is the

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1 dentist's door.

2 Q Okay. And so the first door on the left side that I'm  
3 pointing at, what is that the entrance to?

4 A The lieutenants, the chaplain, the captain.

5 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
6 101-E. Is this photo a close-up of the door to that same area  
7 that you just described?

8 A Yes.

9 Q I'm showing you what's been marked for identification as  
10 Government Exhibits 102-A through 102-G. Can you look through  
11 these photographs and tell me if you recognize them.

12 A Yes.

13 Q And are these photographs 102-A through 102-G, are they  
14 all photographs of the lieutenants' office area on the second  
15 floor of the MDC and the surrounding areas?

16 A Yes.

17 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibits  
18 102-A through 102-G.

19 MR. RICCO: And that's without objection, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: They're admitted.

21 (Government's Exhibits 102-A through 102-G received into  
22 evidence.)

23 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
24 102-A. What is this area?

25 A The first door -- well, this area is the hall. The first

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1 door belongs to the chaplain. The second one belongs to the  
2 lieutenants. The third one in the rear is the captain, and  
3 the door that is open is the bathroom.

4 Q Okay. When you say the first door, are you referring to  
5 this one that I'm pointing at?

6 A Yes.

7 Q That's the chaplain area?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And the door with the little trash can in front of it,  
10 which office is that?

11 A The lieutenants.

12 Q And the door next to that?

13 A The captain.

14 Q And you testified this open door belongs to a bathroom.  
15 Is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
18 102-B. What are the two doors that are on either side of the  
19 couch in this photograph?

20 A The two bathrooms.

21 Q And this door that has an "exit" sign on top of it, is  
22 that the entrance to this area?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
25 102-D. What is this door on the right side of the photograph?

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1 A The lieutenants' door.

2 Q And on the other side of the photograph, what is this door  
3 and window to?

4 A The chaplain.

5 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
6 102-E. What does this photo show?

7 A That's the hallway. At the end, there's a little room in  
8 the rear where they put you if you're nervous -- if the person  
9 is nervous or is sort of crazy.

10 Q Is that the suicide watch area?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
13 102-G. What is this?

14 A It's the hallway, but going back to the exit. At the very  
15 end is the lieutenants' door.

16 Q And is this -- in the front part of the photograph, is  
17 this a closer-up view of that suicide watch area?

18 A Yes. In those little rooms, they put them there.

19 Q And showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
20 102-F, is this part of that same hallway as what was in the  
21 last exhibit?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And this door with the "exit" sign on top, what is that?

24 A The lieutenants'.

25 Q The lieutenants' office?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q And I'm pointing to a little circular object close to the  
3 ceiling. Do you see that?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Do you know what that is?

6 A The camera.

7 Q Now, you testified earlier that an officer would escort  
8 you to the second floor to clean. Is that right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q As a general matter, when an officer escorted you to clean  
11 the second floor, would he stay with you on the second floor or  
12 leave?

13 A He would leave.

14 Q Was there a particular officer who generally stayed while  
15 you cleaned?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And who was that?

18 A Smith. Officer Smith.

19 MS. SHIHATA: I'm showing the witness -- I'm showing  
20 the witness only what's been marked for identification as  
21 Government Exhibit 3.

22 Q Do you recognize the person in this photo?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Who is it?

25 A Smith.

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1 Q Is that the Officer Smith you just referred to?

2 A Yes.

3 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibit 3.

4 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: It's admitted.

6 (Government's Exhibit 3 received into evidence.)

7 MS. SHIHATA: If we could publish it on the screen.

8 Q Now, who were some of the lieutenants that you cleaned for  
9 while you were at the MDC?

10 A Almos (ph.), Rodriguez, Maldonado, Martinez, and an  
11 African -- Afro-American lady. I don't know her name.

12 MS. SHIHATA: Showing the witness only what's been  
13 marked for identification as Government Exhibit 9.

14 Q Do you recognize the person in this photo?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Who is it?

17 A Lieutenant Rodriguez.

18 Q And was he a lieutenant you cleaned for at some point  
19 while you were at the MDC?

20 A Yes.

21 MS. SHIHATA: Move to admit Government Exhibit 9.

22 MR. RICCO: Without objection, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: It's admitted.

24 (Government's Exhibit 9 received into evidence.)

25 MS. SHIHATA: And may we publish it? Thank you.

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1 Q Now, are you familiar with the term "SIS" at the MDC?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What is your understanding of what "SIS" is?

4 A It's the investigators at the prison.

5 Q And at some point after you got -- after the point in time  
6 when you cleaned for Lieutenant Rodriguez, did you understand  
7 that he had become an SIS officer?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Now, you testified you also cleaned the second floor for  
10 Lieutenant Martinez. Is that correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you know his first name?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is it?

15 A Carlos.

16 Q Do you see Carlos Martinez in the courtroom here today?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Can you point him out by an item of clothing he's wearing  
19 and/or where he's sitting?

20 A He's wearing a black jacket and white shirt.

21 Q And is he wearing -- well, where is he seated?

22 A To my right.

23 Q And is he -- there are a number of people seated to your  
24 right. Where at the table is he seated?

25 A In the middle of two people.

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1 MS. SHIHATA: Indicating the defendant, your Honor?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 Q How did you first meet the defendant?

4 A I was cleaning the lieutenants' office for Almos, I think.

5 Q And was Almos a lieutenant?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And who if anyone was in the lieutenants' office while you  
8 were cleaning?

9 A Almos and Martinez.

10 Q And what if anything did you hear the defendant say to  
11 Lieutenant Almos?

12 A If he could go and get me so that I could clean for him.

13 Q Sometime after that, did you start cleaning the second  
14 floor for the defendant?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you recall approximately when you first started  
17 cleaning for the defendant?

18 A In August or September.

19 Q Of what year?

20 A 2015.

21 Q And when you first started cleaning for the defendant,  
22 what areas of the second floor did you generally clean for him?

23 A Bathrooms, the lieutenants' office, the hall, and that's  
24 it.

25 Q And as a general matter, what days of the week did the

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1 defendant generally send for you to come clean on the second  
2 floor?

3 A Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

4 Q Around what time would he generally call for you to clean  
5 on Fridays?

6 A After the count, around 5:30 or 5:00, something like that.

7 Q That's in the afternoon?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And how about on Saturdays and Sundays?

10 A After 10:30 in the morning.

11 Q Can you describe for the jury what the second floor was  
12 like on Fridays after around 5:00 p.m.

13 A No staff.

14 Q What do you mean by that?

15 A Well, that is there were no people around. Sometimes the  
16 chaplain was there. But there wasn't anybody else there, just  
17 the lieutenant and me.

18 Q And what was the second floor like on Saturdays and  
19 Sundays after around 10:30 in the morning?

20 A Same way. Empty.

21 Q When you first started to clean for the defendant, where  
22 would the officer who escorted you generally take you on the  
23 second floor?

24 A To the lieutenants' office.

25 Q I'm showing you what's been marked for identification as

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1 Government Exhibits 103-A through 103-E. Can you take a moment  
2 to look through these photographs and tell me if you recognize  
3 them.

4 (Pause)

5 Q Do you recognize them?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Are Government Exhibits 103-A through 103-E all  
8 photographs of portions of the lieutenants' office on the  
9 second floor?

10 A Yes.

11 MS. SHIHATA: I move to admit Government Exhibits  
12 103-A through 103-E.

13 MR. RICCO: That's without objection, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Admitted.

15 (Government's Exhibits 103-A through 103-E received into  
16 evidence.)

17 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
18 103-A. What is this a photo of?

19 A Inside the lieutenants' office.

20 Q And is this from the entrance, this view?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Showing you 103-B. Is this another photo from the  
23 opposite view?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit

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1 103-C. What is this a photo of?

2 A The lieutenants' desk.

3 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit

4 103-D. What is this a photo of?

5 A The lieutenants' chair.

6 Q Now, is there any particular area in the lieutenants'  
7 office where cleaning supplies were kept?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What area?

10 A There was a closet on the left.

11 Q Showing you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit

12 103-E. What's this a photo of?

13 A The closet where the liquids you used for cleaning were  
14 kept. The other big one, that's where they put things that  
15 they took away from inmates.

16 Q The one to the left?

17 A Yes. And I don't remember what's in the last one.

18 Q At some point did you learn that cleaning supplies were  
19 also kept in another area, other than the cabinet in the  
20 office?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And where was that?

23 A Under the desk -- under the lieutenants' desk.

24 Q I'm showing you Government Exhibit -- what's in evidence  
25 as Government Exhibit 103-D. Do you see that area in this

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1 photograph?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And what area is it?

4 A Like, right under the printer.

5 Q Under this -- in this area or around here?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what if anything did you learn about who put the  
8 cleaning supplies there?

9 A The lieutenant -- that Afro-American lady, her.

10 Q Okay. A female lieutenant who's African-American who you  
11 don't remember her name. Is that right?

12 A Yes.

13 MS. SHIHATA: Your Honor, may I just have a moment?

14 (Pause)

15 MS. SHIHATA: Your Honor, may we have a quick  
16 sidebar?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

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Sidebar

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1 (Conference held at sidebar)

2 MS. SHIHATA: I was just going to suggest that this  
3 may be a good time to break since it's 5:50 and I'm about to  
4 get into the first incident, which will take more than ten  
5 minutes to complete.

6 THE COURT: Okay. How long do you -- I forget -- I  
7 can't remember how long the trial took, it was so long ago.  
8 When -- how long do you estimate the trial is going to take?

9 MS. SHIHATA: The trial. So I think I will finish  
10 with this witness tomorrow morning. I think -- from our  
11 papers, I think we might be taking a break on Wednesday. And  
12 so --

13 THE COURT: I don't want to bring the jury in for  
14 two-and-a-half hours. I don't think it's fair.

15 MR. RICCO: Judge, I'm going to -- I'm going to speak  
16 to the school and see if they can move Wednesday. I'll know  
17 first thing in the morning.

18 THE COURT: Okay. You are covering your mic.

19 MR. RICCO: No, just bad habit, Judge. I'm sorry.  
20 I've been doing it all day.

21 MS. SHIHATA: So I anticipate that we will be likely  
22 finished with our case by Monday --

23 MS. GEDDES: Tuesday.

24 MS. SHIHATA: I'm sorry. Monday is a holiday. So by  
25 Tuesday. And then I understand that there will be a -- there

Sidebar

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1 may be a defense case.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Well, does that depend on whether  
3 we work on Wednesday?

4 MS. SHIHATA: No, I think --

5 MS. GEDDES: We have a couple -- we were relying --  
6 we were relying on having Wednesday off. So we do have several  
7 out-of-town witnesses who will not be here until Thursday. So  
8 I think realistically we're going to try to see if we can move  
9 things around, if you're able to sit on Wednesday, and we'll  
10 see --

11 MR. RICCO: And if I find out tonight, I'll contact  
12 you tonight.

13 MS. GEDDES: But we are somewhat limited by the  
14 travel schedules that we have now pre-arranged. But we'll do  
15 our best. But I think realistically we will finish up on  
16 Tuesday.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 (Conference concludes at sidebar)

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Proceedings

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1                   THE COURT: Okay, ladies and gentlemen. We're going  
2 to break for the day until 10:30 tomorrow. Again, please stay  
3 away from the internet as it affects this case. Good evening.

4 (Jury exits)

5                   MS. GEDDES: Your Honor, we're starting at 10:30  
6 tomorrow?

7                   THE COURT: Yes.

8                   MS. GEDDES: Okay. Thank you.

9                   (Matter Concluded)

10                  -oo-

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LINDA FERRARA, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the said proceedings is a true and accurate transcript from the electronic sound-recording of the proceedings reduced to typewriting in the above-entitled matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 11th day of February, 2020.



Linda Ferrara  
Linda Ferrara

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